## DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 274 810 CE 045 178

TITLE Employ the Project Method. Second Edition. Module C-9

of Category C--Instructional Execution. Professional

Teacher Education Module Series.

INSTITUTION Ohio State Univ., Columbus. National Center for

Research in Vocational Education.

SPONS AGENCY Department of Education, Washington, DC.

REPORT NO ISBN-0-89606-230-9

PUB DATE

NOTE 44p.; For realted modules, see ED 270 587, ED 272

722, ED 272 748, and ED 273 844.

AVAILABLE FROM American Association for Vocational Instructional

Materials, 120 Driftmier Engineering Center,

University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) PUB TYPE

(051)

EDRS PRICE **DESCRIPTORS**  MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

\*Classroom Techniques; Competence; \*Competency Based Teacher Education; \*Learning Activities; Learning Modules; Lesson Plans; Postsecondary Education; Secondary Education; \*Student Projects; \*Teaching Methods; Technical Education; Units of Study; Vocational Education; \*Vocational Education

Teachers

## ABSTRACT

This module is one of a series of 127 performance-based teacher education (PBTE) learning packages focusing upon specific professional competencies of vocational teachers. The competencies upon which these modules are based were identified and verified through research as being important to successful vocational teaching at both the secondary and postsecondary levels of instruction. This module is designed to prepare prospective or inservice teachers to teach by the project method, a method that involves a series of carefully planned projects or a single major project designed to be the focal point for all instruction and instructional planning. The module is intended to assist vocational-technical teachers in determining (1) how this method applies to their occupational area, and (2) what their role should be in implementing this method. Finally, the module is designed to help teachers plan and implement the project method effectively. This module contains three learning experiences to allow students to gain experience in the project method. Each learning experience contains an enabling objective, activities, optional activities, and self-check with answers. The final learning experience requires students to employ the project method in an actual teaching situation and be assessed by a resource person. Examples and resources also are provided in the module. (KC)

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## Employ the Project Method

Second Edition

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## **FOREWORD**

This module is one of a series of 127 performance-based teacher education (PBTE) learning packages focusing upon specific professional competencies of vocational teachers. The competencies upon which these modules are based were identified and verified through research as being important to successful vocational teaching at both the secondary and postsecondary levels of instruction. The modules are suitable for the preparation of teachers and other occupational trainers in all occupational areas.

Each module provides learning experiences that integrate theory and application; each culminates with criterion-referenced assessment of the teacher's (instructor's, trainer's) performance of the specified competency. The materials are designed for use by teachers-in-training working individually or in groups under the direction and with the assistance of teacher educators or others acting as resource persons. Resource persons should be skilled in the teacher competencies being developed and should be thoroughly oriented to PBTE concepts and procedures before using these materials.

The design of the materials provides considerable flexibility for planning and conducting performance-based training programs for preservice and inservice teachers, as well as business-industry-labor trainers, to meet a wide variety of individual needs and interests. The materials are intended for use by universities and colleges, state departments of education, postsecondary institutions, local education agencies, and others responsible for the professional development of vocational teachers and other occupational trainers.

The PBTE curriculum packages in Categories A - J are products of a sustained research and development effort by the National Center's Program for Professional Development for Vocational Education. Many individuals, institutions, and agencies participated with the National Center and have made contributions to the systematic development, testing, revision, and refinement of these very significant training materials. Calvin J. Cotrell directed the vocational teacher competency research study upon which these modules are based and also directed the curriculum development effort from 1971 - 1972. Curtis R. Finch provided leadership for the program from 1972 - 1974. Over 40 teacher educators provided input in development of initial versions of the modules; over 2,000 teachers and 300 resource persons in 20 universities, colleges, and postsecondary institutions used the materials and provided feedback to the National Center for revisions and refinement.

Early versions of the materials were developed by the National Center in cooperation with the vocational teacher education faculties at Oregon State University and at the University of Missouri –

Columbia. Preliminary testing of the materials was conducted at Oregon State University, Temple University, and the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Following preliminary testing, major revision of all materials was performed by National Center staff, with the assistance of numerous consultants and visiting scholars from throughout the country.

Advanced testing of the materials was carried out with assistance of the vocational teacher educators and students of Central Washington State College; Colorado State University; Ferris Stata College, Michigan; Florida State University; Holland College, P.E.I., Canada; Oklahoma State University; Rutgers University, New Jersey; State University College at Buffalo, New York; Temple University, Pennsylvania; University of Arizona; University of Michigan—Flint; University of Minnesota—Twin Cities; University of Nebraska—Lincoln; University of Northern Colorado; University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; University of Tennessee; University of Vermont; and Utah State University.

The first published edition of the modules found widespread use nationwide and in many other countries of the world. User feedback from such extensive use, as well as the passage of time, called for the updating of the content, resources, and illustrations of the original materials. Furthermore, three new categories (K–M) have been added to the series, covering the areas of serving students with special/exceptional needs, improving students' basic and personal skills, and implementing competency-based education. This addition required the articulation of content among the original modules and those of the new categories.

Recognition is extended to the following individuals for their roles in the revision of the original materials: Lois G. Harrington, Catherine C. King-Fitch and Michael E. Wonacott, Program Associates, for revision of content and resources; Cheryl M. Lowry, Research Specialist, for illustration specifications; and Barbara Shea for art work. Special recognition is extended to the staff at AAVIM for their invaluable contributions to the quality of the final printed products, particularly to Sylvia Conine for typesetting; Marilyn MacMillan for module layout, design, and final art work; and to George W. Smith, Jr. for supervision of the module production process.

Robert E. Taylor Executive Director The National Center for Research in Vocational Education



The National Center for Research in Vocational Education's mission is to increase the ability of diverse agencies, institutions, and organizations to solve educational problems relating to individual career planning, preparation, and progression. The National Center fulfills its mission by:

- Generating knowledge through research.
- Developing educational programs and products.
- Evaluating individual program needs and outcomes.
- Providing information for national planning and policy.
- Installing educational programs and products.
- Operating information systems and services.
- Conducting leadership development and training programs.



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Direction is given by a representative from each of the states, provinces and territories. AAVIM also works closely with teacher organizations, government agencies and industry.



## C-9

## Employ the Project Method

Second Edition

Module C-9 of Category C-Instructional Execution INIQUUIS OF OI CALEGUIY CHINSTITUCTION AND LE SERIES PROFESSIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION MODULE SERIES The National Center for Research in Vocational Education
The Ohio Stale University

The Ohio State University

James B. Hamilton, Program Director Key Program Staff:

Robert E. Norton, Associate Program Director

Glen E. Fardig, Specialist

Lois G. Harrington, Program Assistant

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1986

ISBN 0-89606-230-9

Published and distributed by the **American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials**(AAVIM). 120 Driftmier Engineering Center. The University of Georgia. Published and distributed by the American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials (AAVIM), 170 Driftmier Engineering Center, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602.



## INTRODUCTION

What is the difference between a project and the project method? A project is single task or problem, usually engaged in by an individual or a group of students to **supplement** classroom studies. The project method involves a series of carefully planned projects or a single major project designed to be the **focal point** for all instruction and instructional planning.

For instance, at the end of a unit on ecology, a class could do a project in which they clean up a creek running through the school property. The project reinforces and supplements the unit on ecology.

On the other hand, using the project method, the same class could have mapped out several projects (large group, small group, independent study) at the beginning of the unit on ecology. These projects, supplemented and supported by related classroom instruction, would be geared to accomplish the same goals as in the classroom unit. Students would learn the same concepts, but through their own efforts via projects.

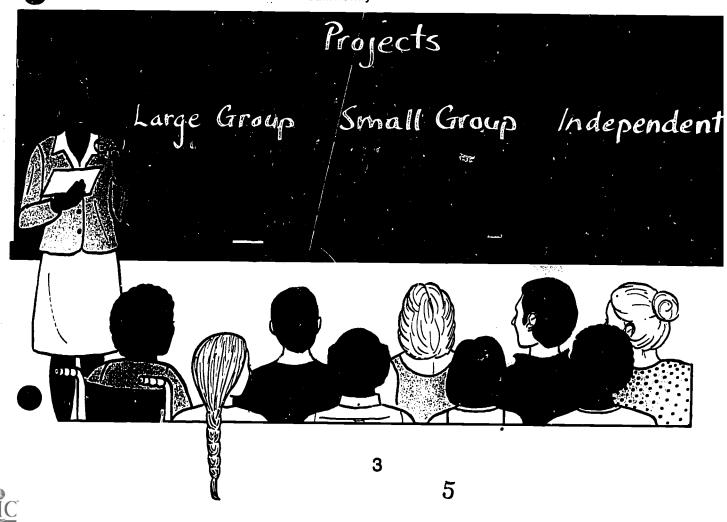
The idea of the project method probably first originated with a man named William Heard Kilpatrick in the early 1900s. Kilpatrick felt that education was too content-oriented and not sufficiently

concerned with process or with students. He conterided that education should be student-centered and problem-centered.

Kilpatrick's proposed project method was intended to be a means for developing in students, through purposeful activity (i.e., activity consistent with students' own goals and felt needs), the values needed for bu'ding the democratic character and personality—with the majority of the responsibility on the students themselves. This was in keeping with Kilpatrick's notion that the "great end of life is not knowledge, but action."

Where does the vocational-technical teacher fit in this scheme? This module is designed to assist you in determining (1) how this method applies to your occupational area and (2) what your role should be in implementing this method. Finally, the module is designed to help you plan and implement the project method effectively.

 Samuel Tenenbaum, William Heard Kilpatrick (New York, NY: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1951), p. 135.



## **ABOUT THIS MODULE**

## **Objectives**

Terminal Objective: In an actual teaching situation, employ the project method. Your performance will be assessed by your resource person, using the Teacher Performance Assessment Form, pp. 39–40 (Learning Experience III).

## **Enabling Objectives:**

- After completing the required reacing, demonstrate knowledge of the steps and procedures involved in employing the project method (Learning Experience I).
- Given a series of case study episodes, demonstrate how you would employ the project method (Learning Experience II).

## **Prerequisites**

To complete this module, you must have competency in developing a unit of instruction. If you do not already have this competency, meet with your resource person to determine what method you will use to gain this skill. One option is to complete the information and practice activities in the following mcdule:

· Develop a Unit of Instruction, Module B-3

## Resources

A list of the outside resources that supplement those contained within the module follows. Check with your resource person (1) to determine the availability and the location of these resources, (2) to locate additional references in your occupational specialty, and (3) to get assistance in setting up activities with peers or observations of skilled teachers, if necessary. Your resource person may also be contacted if you have difficulty with directions or in assessing your progress at any time.

## Learning Experience I

Optional

References (e.g., books, magazine articles, pamphlets, videotapes), relating to the use of the project method in your occupational specialty, that you can review.

Peers and/or a resource person with whom you can discuss the project method.

A classroom or vocational student organization that you can visit to observe project work.

## Learning Experience II

No outside resources

## Learning Experience III

Required

An actual teaching situation in which you can employ the project method.

A resource person to assess your competency in employing the project method.

## **General Information**

For information about the general organization of each performance-based teacher education (PBTE) module, general procedures for its use, and terminology that is common to all the modules, see About Using the National Center's PBTE Modules on the inside back cover. For more in-depth information on how to use the modules in teacher/trainer education programs, you may wish to refer to three related documents:

The Student Guide to Using Performance-Based Teacher Education Materials is designed to help orient preservice and inservice teachers and occupational trainers to PBTE in general and to the PBTE materials.

The Resource Person Guide to Using Performance-Based Teacher Education Materials can help prospective resource persons to guide and assist preservice and inservice teachers and occupational trainers in the development of professional teaching competencies through use of the PBTE modules. It also includes lists of all the module competencies, as well as a listing of the supplementary resources and the addresses where they can be obtained.

The Guide to the Implementation of Performance-Based Teacher Education is designed to help those who will administer the PBTE program. It contains answers to implementation questions, possible solutions to problems, and alternative courses of action.



## Learning Experience I

## **OVERVIEW**



After completing the required reading, demonstrate knowledge of the steps and procedures involved in employing the project method.



You will be reading the information sheet, Employing the Project Method, pp. 6-14.



You may wish to locate other references that relate specifically to the use of the project method in your occupational specialty.



You may wish to meet with your resource person and/or peers to further discuss the information in the reading.



You may wish to arrange to visit a vocational-technical classroom or vocational student organization to observe project work in action.



You will be demonstrating knowledge of the steps and procedures involved in employing the project method by completing the Self-Check, p. 16.



You will be evaluating your competency by comparing your completed Self-Check with the Model Answer, p. 17.





Projects and the project method have been a mainstay of vocational-technical education for a long time. For information defining the project method and explaining and illustrating the steps and procedures involved in this method, read the following information sheet.

## **EMPLOYING THE PROJECT METHOD**

The project method is used to some extent in all occupational service areas. However, not all service areas use the term *project method*, nor do all service areas use the project method in the same way. Some examples of how the various service areas use this method follow.

Marketing and Distributive Education calls this method the *project plan*, and they put this method to use extensively in their model store arrangement. By completing projects in the simulated store setting, students learn such concepts as marketing, retailing, salesmanship, merchandising, and management.

Business and Office Education often uses a model office arrangement. By completing projects in the simulated office setting, students learn office procedures and skills.

Home Economics, too, uses the project method in school—and out of school via home projects or home experiences. A class of home economics students may plan and operate a day-care center during school hours for a six-week period in order to learn the skills and attitudes necessary for child care. Or, an individual student may plan to redecorate his/her room at home as a home project.

Agricultural Education includes the project method under the general heading of Supervised Occupational Experience Program. A class of students might jointly plan a class project in which they improve the school grounds or a laboratory project in which they service and maintain the school's power lawn equipment. Horticulture students could have a project in which they plant, grow, and sell Easter lilies. A class might cooperatively buy, feed, and market a number of livestock.

An individual agriculture student may plan a home project involving production/improvement. An individual production project (or productive enterprises project) entails the student having a degree of ownership in a business venture for experience and profit. It also requires the production of a crop or some type of livestock. An individual improvement project entails family ownership with no direct income to the student. In addition, it involves the improvement of farm efficiency, property appearance, comfort and convenience, or business methods.



In Trade and Industrial Education, the project method is in evidence on an in-school basis. These classes often offer their services to the community at certain times of the day or week for a minimal charge, usually just covering supplies or materials used. The print shop students may fill the school district's orders for printing. The electronics and auto mechanics students may run repair shops. The cosmetology students might run a beauty shop. The dental hygiene students sometimes clean teeth. The carpentry students sometimes build a house and then sell it. And so on.

The project method is also often used to teach basic skills involving hand and power tools. A real or contrived project, the completion of which requires the use of desired skills and tools, provides students with an opportunity to develop those skills under close supervision.



What all these efforts have in common is that students are applying what they are learning in the classroom, as well as learning additional skills, attitudes, and knowledge. Theory and practice, knowledge and action, are integrated. The responsibility for learning is placed on the students. Students who are not in an on-the-job situation have an opportunity to apply their learning and to learn to solve problems in modified or simulated situations.

In the remainder of this information sheet, the focus will be on selecting, planning, executing, and evaluating individual projects. However, the same principles and techniques apply to the use of the more comprehensive project method.

## Selecting the Project

Where do these projects come from? Who selects them? One option is for you, the vocational-technical instructor, to give students a prescribed list of projects to be completed. This allows you to have the needed materials available in advance and ensures that students will be learning essential things (i.e., meeting program objectives).

The second option is to allow students free selection of projects. This does not allow you to pre-order supplies and does not ensure that objectives will be met. However, this second option encourages the students to take the responsibility for their learning and allows the students to select projects that meet their own needs and career goals.

A third option combines the benefits of the first two options. This third option involves your providing students with a list of projects that all meet a specific objective. In a competency-based program, such a list could be part of the learning activities in the learning package covering a specified competency. Each student is allowed to select one of the listed projects or an acceptable alternative. The student then is responsible for planning and completing the project with your guidance.



The following criteria can help in deciding which projects are acceptable. An acceptable project is designed to do the following:

- To meet a definite goal (program objective, occupational competency, or personal educational objective based on an individual career goal or felt need)
- To fit the student's level of motivation, maturity, and capabilities
- To be of meaning and value to the student as an individual
- To stimulate experimentation and creativity
- To integrate theory and practice
- To be practical in terms of the availability and cost of equipment and material, the time required, and the space required
- To place the responsibility for learning on the student

The following questions can aid a student in selecting an appropriate project:

- Do I want to do this?
- Will it develop ability that I need?
- If it is a home project, will my family approve?
- Is it difficult enough, but not too difficult?
- Does it have something to plan or manage?
- Is it something that is practical and useful?
- Do I have time?
- Will it help me learn something I need to learn?<sup>2</sup>

Your role in all this is essentially that of a resource and guide. You should set the overall objectives and aid students in selecting projects to meet the program objectives and their career objectives. In addition, you should provide students with related instruction and resource materials, guide student planning and implementation, and evaluate student progress. If the project is a home project for secondary students, you must be sure of parental consent and work for parental cooperation and involvement.



<sup>2.</sup> Adapted from Maude Williamson and Mary Stewart Lyle, Homemaking Education in the High School (New York, NY: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1961), p. 191.

## **Planning the Project**

Once a student has decided on an appropriate project, a plan for carrying out that project must be prepared. The plan should include the following elements:

- A description or sketch of the project itself
- The objectives of the project, in terms of skills, information, concepts, and attitudes to be learned
- The equipment, supplies, and facilities needed to complete the project, including cost estimates
- The activities to be performed, in the order in which they will be performed
- The record-keeping method to be used by the student, if a record is to be kept of how the project is progressing
- The methods of evaluation to be used, by whom (student, teacher, parent), and at what points in time

Let's take an example. Ms. Luke is teaching a unit on business ethics. In class, she and the students have covered the general concept of ethics and have discussed how the concept relates to the business community. This is designed to meet one of Ms. Luke's objectives: Students will be able to define business ethics. However, Ms. Luke wants students to be able to do more than merely recite a definition. She also wants her students to identify and recognize ethical behavior, to desire to be ethical, to recognize the importance of business ethics, and to strengthen their judgment skills.

She therefore presents her students with a list of suggested projects and asks them each to select a project and prepare a plan for that project. Jim Critendon, who is interested in a career in department store management, submitted the plan shown in sample 1.



After Ms. Luke has had an opportunity to review Jim's plan, she and Jim would then have a conference to discuss his plan. Ms. Luke can suggest areas that are weak. For example, she might ask Jim, "Is a 20-hour observation period realistic? And how might the manager feel if you secretly observe him/her and then show up to tell him/her about the unethical behaviors going on at the store?"

Ms. Luke will need to set a time to contact the store manager to obtain permission for Jim's observation. She and Jim need to decide at what points during the project she will meet with him to ensure continual evaluation. Finally, she can suggest resources that might help him meet his objectives.

## **Executing and Evaluating the Project**

If the project plan is carefully completed with input from both student and teacher, then the student should have little trouble executing the plan. Should trouble arise, it can be dealt with via the continual evaluation that was planned. In other words, if the student has planned how progress will be recorded and evaluated, and if the student is meeting with you at key points, then any problem that does come up can be recognized and dealt with before it assumes major proportions.

Selection of the final, overall evaluation device should be based on the type of project the student is doing. If the student's objective is to build a high-quality product, there should be evaluation criteria that define what "quality" means. Or perhaps the evaluation could be based on whether the finished product will sell.

If the project involves gathering information or problem solving, a written or oral report could serve as a means of evaluation. Another option for evaluating the latter type of project is to have the student attempt to apply what was learned to a new situation.

There are numerous options, but the key to remember is that if the plan was properly prepared, then that plan should indicate what is to be learned and how. Thus, that same plan can serve as a basis for establishing the criteria to determine if the planned learning occurred.

Samples 2-6 show examples of the variety of projects appropriate to the various service areas: agriculture (sample 2), health occupations (sample 3), home economics (sample 4), trade and industry (sample 5), and marketing and distribution (sample 6). Sample 7 is an example of a teacher-structured project plan for a marketing and distributive education model store project.



## JIM'S PLAN

## 1. What I need to learn

To be able to identify and recognize ethical behavior To see the importance of practicing business ethics

## 2. What I plan to do

To find out what codes of ethics exist for business and to observe the personnel at Cox Department Store to find examples of ethical and unethical behavior

## This will include doing these things:

by February 27

 Going to the library and seeing if there are any codes of ethics for business organizations

by March 2 by March 10

- Going to the Better Business Bureau and becoming familiar with its operation
- Observing business at Cox Department Store for a total of 20 hours
- Keeping records of ethical and unethical behaviors observed
- Observing two specific areas: (1) how complaints are handled and
   (2) how sales are promoted by displays and by clerks

by March 15

• Meeting the manager of Cox Department Store to discuss what I found

## 3. Plans for evaluation

I will keep a record of what I am learning and observing and check it against what I have said I need to learn.

I will submit a written report summarizing my findings.

I will explain what I learned in an oral report to the class.



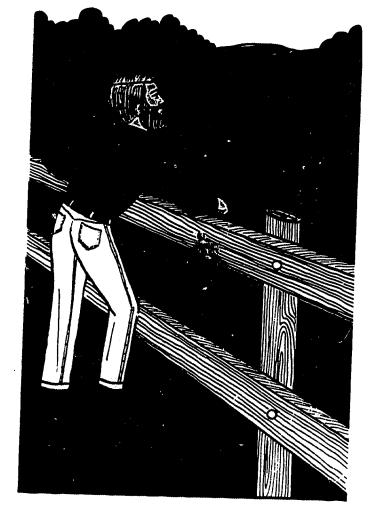
## AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

## **Production Projects**

- 2 sows and litter
- 2 dairy cows
- 10 steers to be fattened for market
- 5 ewes and lambs
- 100 hens for egg production
- 200 chicks for broiler production
- 10 acres of corn
- 10 acres of wheat
- 1 acre of tobacco
- 5 acres of cotton
- 100 potted plants (ornamentals)

## Improvement Projects

- Swine herd improvement
- Poultry flock improvement
- Dairy herd improvement
- Home grounds improvement
- Home improvement
- Home garden improvement
- Establishment of a home-farm shop
- Establishment of a field of legumes
- Pasture improvement
- Soil conservation
- Keeping of farm accounts
- Farm-family living or live-at-home projects



SOURCE: Adapted from Lloyd J. Phipps, Handbook on Agricultural Education in Public Schools (Danville, IL: The Interstate Printers & Publishers, 1972), pp. 190–192.



## **HEALTH OCCUPATIONS PROJECTS**

- Performing glaucoma tests for the public
- Taking blood pressure for the public
- · Visiting home-bound elderly citizens
- · Assisting in a free clinic
- Organizing blood donor drives
- Conducting a louse-inspection program for new immigrant children

## SAMPLE 4

## HOME ECONOMICS PROJECTS

## Individual or Group Class Projects

- Canning surplus food for school lunches
- · Caring for school garden
- Developing roadside park
- · Redecorating principal's office
- Holding handicraft exhibit
- Caring for children on community playground
- · Having bake sales
- Making garments for Red Cross
- · Sewing for the elderly



## Individual or Family Home Experiences

- Refinishing and redecorating an attic room to make a bedroom
- Taking care of a child for a whole day
- Planning and experimenting with clearing up after meals to reduce time and save energy
- Having and budgeting allowance for personal needs
- Preparing family meals for a week or more
- Completing an entire wardrobe by making some new garments and remodeling older ones
- Preserving food
- · Assuming responsibility for care of the home
- · Refinishing furniture
- · Improving family diet
- Adding variety to family diet
- Managing food budget for a week
- Improving personal grooming or manners
- Reducing energy consumption in the home

SOURCE: Adapted from Williamson and Lyle. Homemaking Education in the High School, pp. 183-193.



## TRADE AND INDUSTRY PROJECTS

## **Woodworking Projects**

- Designing and developing a stereo cabinet
- Designing and developing a cutting board
- Designing and developing an ironing sleeve
- Designing and developing a silverware display rack

## **Metal Projects**

- Designing and developing a tool
- · Designing and developing a weather vane

## **Plastic Projects**

 Designing and developing an ice scraper for car windows

## **Multifaceted Projects**

 Utilizing entire range of shop materials (e.g., plastic, metal, wood) to make a product

## **Mass Production Projects**

Designing and mass producing a product for sale

## **Community Service Projects**

Making toys for the children's hospital





## MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS

## **Model Store Projects**

- Displays
- Advertising layout
- · Cash register techniques
- Commodity marketing studies
- Inventory control
- Shopping traffic
- Advertisement development
- Point-of-purchase signs and tags
- Accounting records
- Change-making

## Meet the Professionals Project

 Via interviews, determine the two outstanding supermarket employees in the community and what qualities they possess.

## Population Study Projects

- Study the young marrieds market to see how population factors and economic trends affect marketing.
- Study the over-65 market using magazine ads. Present oral report showing how ads appeal to different markets.

## Advertising Project

 Collect advertising slogans and classify them by the motives to which they appeal.



## Teen Customer Project

 Via a questionnaire, determine the buying habits of teens relative to fashion merchandise.

## **Descriptive Words Project**

 Via printed advertisements, compile a scrapbook of the ways in which descriptive words are used to sell products.

SOURCE: Adapted from E. ward T. Ferguson, Jr., comp., "Some Basic Information on the Project Method in Distributive Education" (Columbus, OH: The Center for Vocational Education. The Ohio State University, n.d.).



## PROJECT PLAN

## Cash Register Techniques

## DISCUSSION:

The checkout station is the final point of customer contact in a self-service store. Here the customer brings his or her purchases to be checked and bagged. Operating the checkout station begins with preparing the cash register and checkout station for the day. It concludes with the closing-out of the cash register at the end of the day.

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this project is to familiarize you with the procedures for opening and operating a cash register and checkout station.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

You will demonstrate your ability to correctly open a checkout station. Also, you will demonstrate your ability to operate the cash register proficiently.

## **DIRECTIONS:**

- Obtain the cash register change fund from the student store bookkeeper. Count the fund and arrange the coins and currency in their proper compartments.
- Prepare the checkout station for the day's business. (This includes such things as making sure there are plenty of bags and making sure the cash register was closed from the prior day's business.)
- 3. Record all transactions on the cash register as they occur and issue change as may be necessary.
- 4. At the end of business, close out the cash register and the checkout station.
- 5. Evaluate yourself using the Cash Register Checklist and record your achievement below. Meet with your instructor and discuss your achievement.

Achievement Level

CASH REGISTER TECHNIQUES	2.0	1 2 3 4 5 6
Expected Level of Achievement1		





In order to locate references (e.g., books, magazine articles, pamphlets, videotapes) that you can read to learn how the project method is used in your specific occupational specialty, you may wish to refer to the following sources: library, resource center, resource person, peers, inservice teacher.



You may wish to arrange to meet with your resource person and/or peers who are also taking this module. In this meeting, you could (1) discuss the project method from personal experiences, (2) discuss the reading you have done in the area, (3) generate a list of projects typically used in your occupational specialty, or (4) brainstorm for new project ideas.



You may wish to arrange through your resource person to visit a vocational technical classroom or a vocational student organization in which the project method is being used. During this visit, you could observe the method and/or actual project work being put into action. You could see what project plans the students have developed and used, how each project was or is to be evaluated, how much time is involved in each project, and so on. You could also discuss what motivational devices are used to involve students in project work and to keep them involved.





The following item checks your comprehension of the material in the information sheet, Employing the Project Method, pp. 6–14. The item requires a short essay-type response. Please explain fully, but briefly, and make sure you respond to all parts of the item.

## **SELF-CHECK**

Assume that you are about to use the project method to teach a particular unit. Describe how you would explain to your students (1) the purpose of completing projects and (2) the steps and procedures they will be following. You need not have a particular unit in mind; this should be a general explanation designed to motivate and orient students to the project method.





Compare your written response to the self-check item with the model answer given below. Your response need not exactly duplicate the model response; however, you should have covered the same **major** points.

## **MODEL ANSWER**

In explaining the project method, you should have covered the following areas: student motivation, teacher responsibility, and student responsibility.

You should have provided motivation by explaining the advantages of the project method. You should have explained that projects allow students (1) to be actively involved in their education, (2) to be creative, (3) to experiment, (4) to work in their own areas of interest, (5) to pursue activities related to their own career goals, (6) to apply what they are learning, and (7) to self-evaluate.

You should have explained your responsibility. You should have mentioned that you will assist the students in selecting and planning their projects and that you will be available to guide and evaluate their efforts throughout the project.

You should have explained their responsibility. You should have made them aware that the major responsibility for the projects rests on their shoulders. They are responsible for selecting appropriate projects. To clarify what is meant by "appropriate," you could list for them the eight questions suggested by Williamson & Lyle (see p. 7 in this module).

They are also responsible for planning their projects. To illustrate what should be contained in a plan, you could list the six elements described on p. 8 of this module. Finally, they are responsible for (1) discussing their plans with you, (2) executing their projects according to those plans, (3) evaluating their own projects, and (4) meeting with you to co-evaluate their projects.

**Level** of Performance: Your written response to the self-check item should have covered the same major points as the model answer. If you missed some points or have questions about any additional points you made, review the material in the information sheet, Employing the Project Method, pp. 6–14, or check with your resource person if necessary.



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## Learning Experience II

## **OVERVIEW**



Given a series of case study episodes, demonstrate how you would employ the project method.



You will be generating a list of ten possible projects that could be completed as part of a given unit, using the form provided on p. 21.



You will be evaluating your competency in generating a list of projects, using the Project Checklist, p. 23.



You will be critiquing a Project Plan submitted by a hypothetical student, p. 25.



You will be evaluating your competency in critiquing the project plan by comparing your completed critique with the Model Critique, p. 27.



You will be outlining the advice and guidance you would provide to the hypothetical student based on what has occurred in his project by the time of his final checkpoint, using the space provided on p. 29.



You will be evaluating your competency in advising the student by comparing your written outline with the Model Advice, p. 31.





You will be constructing a checklist to evaluate the hypothetical student's completed project, using the form provided on p. 33.



You will be evaluating your competency in constructing a project checklist by comparing your completed checklist with the Model Checklist, p. 35.



Assume that you are teaching a unit on citizenship in the community. The objective is to have each student take an active part in community concerns and be of service to the community. As part of this unit, you have recently had several speakers from the community talk to your class about the opportunities for service in the community. This was followed by a panel discussion by class members on the topic of community service.



The students are now enthusiastic and want to stop talking and start acting. You suggest that each student plan and execute a community service project. To get them started, you pass out a list of suggested projects. They can select from your list or select an alternative, but at least the list will serve to get the pumps primed.

In the space below, **generate in writing** a list of ten possible projects. Use a community with which you are familiar, your own service area, and your own level of students as a frame of reference.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS							
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After you have developed your list of projects, use the Project Checklist, p. 23, to evaluate your work.



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## PROJECT CHECKLIST

ea tia cu	rections: Place an X in the NO, PARTIAL, or FULL box to indicate the choice of the following performance components was not accomplished, pally accomplished, or fully accomplished. If, because of special compandes, a performance component was not applicable, or impossible execute, place an X in the N/A box.	ar- :ir- <sup>[</sup> :le	Name  Date  Resource Person			
		LEV	EL OF P	ERFOR	MANCE	
		AIR	<b>₽</b> 0	Partial	lin <sub>d</sub>	
	ch project: is related to my occupational service area					
2.	does, in fact, provide some needed service to the community (meets the unit objective)					
3.	is realistic in terms of cost involved					
4.	is realistic in terms of time involved (remember, this is part of a single unit)					
5.	is realistic in terms of the general abilities of vocational-technical students at my program level					
6.	is potentially interesting					

**Level of Performance:** All items must receive FULL or N/A responses. If any item receives a NO or PARTIAL response, revise your list of projects accordingly or check with your resource person if necessary.



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Dave Smith, one of the students in your class, is planning to become a land-scape. He chooses a project that will serve the community and use his land-scaping skills and interests. He submits the following plan. Review this plan, checking for strengths and weaknesses. Normally, you would meet with Dave to discuss his plan, but since he's only hypothetical, **describe in writing** the suggestions you would make and/or questions you would raise about Dave's plan.

## PROJECT PLAN

## 1. What I need to learn

To be a contributing member of the community

## 2. What I plan to do

There is an elementary school in the east end of town that has really run-down grounds. I plan to meet with the principal there to explain how I will organize a group of students from the school to improve the grounds. We will work Saturdays. We will plant shrubs, trees, and grass. We will paint the playground equipment. It should look really nice once it's cleaned up. This way, not only am I involved, but I'm helping others to be involved, too.

## This will include doing these things:

by May 3

· Meeting with the principal to outline my plans

by May 8

Organizing the group of students and telling them what I need them to do

· Getting ahold of the shrubs, trees, and grass seed

by June 5

· Completing the landscaping of the grounds

## 3. Plans for evaluation

I will keep a record of what occurs at each organizational meeting and each work session. My work can be evaluated by the quality of the finished product and the elementary pupils' reaction to it.



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Compare your written critique of Dave's project plan with the model critique given below. Your response need not exactly duplicate the model response; however, you should have covered the same **major** points.

## **MODEL CRITIQUE**

Dave's plan has basic merit, but there are a few serious weaknesses in it. First, his objective needs to be stated in more specific, behavioral terms. As presently stated, it would be difficult to measure the achievement of the objective. What does a "contributing" member look like? Another weakness involves the way in which he is imposing his plan on the persons at the elementary school. A third weakness concerns the source of all those shrubs and trees and all that grass seed and pain.

Dave needs to be made to think through the concept of service. Does it mean doing good to others on your own terms whether they want it or not? Dave will need to play a more nondirective role. He can meet with the principal and offer to share whatever skills he has, but he should not tell the principal what he's going to do. The way it is planned now, he could seriously alienate the principal and the pupils by walking into their school and telling them that they have run-down grounds.

To allow the principal and the group to have an input into what happens, Dave should not have completed a detailed final plan. Instead he should have planned sufficiently to be able to describe the options. His present plan does not seem to have enough information to answer the questions the principal will most likely ask.

For instance, where are the shrubs, trees, grass seed, and paint coming from? Is a nursery donating them? Is Dave going to ask parents or pupils to donate money to buy them? If new seed is put in by June 5, who is going to care for it during the summer to make sure it flourishes? How is Dave going to notify students? When and where is Dave going to meet with them to organize? Will there be adequate supervision? Will four Saturdays be enough? What happens if it's not enough time?

Finally, Dave needs to clarify the second item in the evaluation section further. If the objective is to be a contributing member of the community, then he needs to be able to measure whether he, in fact, contributed in the sense of adding something positive to the community. How is he going 13 get at pupils' reactions, principal's reactions, parents' reactions? What device will he use? How can he be sure that they are saying what they really think? Perhaps allowing them to be more involved in the planning phase could alleviate some of these evaluation problems.

Overall, Dave has a good idea, but he needs to do more planning before he's ready to begin the project.

**Level of Performance:** Your written critique of Dave's project plan should have covered the same **major** points as the model critique. If you missed some points or have questions about any additional points you made, review the material in the information sheet, Employing the Project Method, pp. 6–14, or check with your resource person if necessary.



# **NOTES**





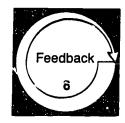
Dave firmed up his plan and modified it to be more specific in terms of its objectives and more realistic in terms of supplies needed and time involved. You met with him again to plan checkpoints and to suggest some magazines you know of that show different low-cost landscaping schemes for school facilities.

At the first checkpoint, you visit the school to attend one of the organizational meetings. Afterwards, you chat briefly with Dave and the principal. You realize that the principal is running the show and that Dave is being allowed to do very little in the way of decision making. His enthusiasm seems to be disappearing rapidly. **Outline in writing** how you would handle this. Who's at fault? What steps can you take?



# **NOTES**





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Compare your written outline for guiding Dave past this checkpoint with the model advice given below. Your response need not exactly duplicate the model response; however, you should have covered the same major points.

## **MODEL ADVICE**

It's not really a question of fault. It's Dave's project, and he can't be blamed for wanting to be in charge. It's the principal's school, and he can't be blamed for wanting to be actively involved in anything affecting that school.

However, this situation goes back to Dave's original plan and the problems there. The one thing that Dave really needs to learn is that "providing service" is not equivalent to "coing something for

others." It means offering what you have and can do and being willing to help in any capacity.

Dave can be proud that his idea motivated the principal to act. If Dave truly wants to provide service, he should be concerned about whether the project gets completed, not about who takes the major responsibility. This needs to be discussed with him at this point.

Level of Performance: Your written outline for guiding Dave past this checkpoint should have covered the same major points as the model advice. If you missed some points or have questions about any additional points you made, review the case study material, pp. 21–29, or check with your resource person if necessary.



# **NOTES**





It's June 5. How are you going to decide whether Dave's project has been successful or not? Make a checklist of the items you would use to measure how well Dave met his objective. A blank form for you to use is provided below.

## PROJECT EVALUATION CHECKLIST

## LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE 45



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Compare your written checklist with the model checklist given below. The items on your checklist need not exactly duplicate the model items; however, you should have covered the same major points.

## MODEL CHECKLIST

		<b>LEAET</b>	OF PERFORI	MANCE
		FIR.	No N	Full
1.	Dave's checkpoints and deadlines were met on schedule			
2.	Dave's records are thorough and neat			
3.	Feedback from the principal and pupils indicates that Dave's records are accurate			
4.	Feedback from the principal and pupils indicates that they feel Dave made a valuable contribution to their school			
5.	Feedback from the principal and pupils indicates that Dave worked well with others involved			
6.	The school grounds are improved from what they were			
7.	The principal, pupils, and parents are pleased with the grounds .			
8.	Dave's attitude improved as a result of this experience			
9.	Dave's self-evaluation was honest and accurate			
10.	Dave met his project objective			

**Level of Performance:** The items on your written checklist should have covered the same **major** points as the model items. If you missed some points or have questions about any additional points you made, review the meterial in the information sheet, Employing the Project Method, pp. 6–14, and the material in the case study, pp. 21–31, or check with your resource person if necessary.



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## Learning Experience III

## FINAL EXPERIENCE



In an actual teaching situation,\* employ the project method.

As you plan your units of instruction, decide when employing the project method could be used effectively to aid in reeting the unit objectives. Based on that decision, employ the project method. This will include—

- selecting, modifying, or developing a unit plan that includes this technique
- assisting students in selecting projects and completing project plans
- · guiding students in executing their projects
- · evaluating the projects in cooperation with the students



**NOTE:** Due to the nature of this experience, you will need to have access to an actual teaching situation over an extended period of time (e.g., four to six weeks).

As you complete each of the above activities, document your actions (in writing, on tape, through a log) for assessment purposes.

Your resource person may want you to submit your written unit plan to him/her for evaluation before you present your unit. It may be helpful for him/her to use the TPAF from Module B-3, Develop a Unit of Instruction, to guide his/her evaluation.



Arrange in advance to have your resource person review your documentation and observe your use of the project method during at least one key point.

Your total competency will be assessed by your resource person, using the Teacher Performance Assessment Form, pp. 39–40.

Based upon the criteria specified in this assessment instrument, your resource person will determine whether you are competent in employing the project method.



<sup>\*</sup> For a definition of "actual teaching situation," see the inside back cover.

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## TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FORM

Employ the Project Method (C-9)

**Directions:** Indicate the level of the teacher's accomplishment by placing an X in the appropriate box under the LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE heading. If, because of special circumstances, a performance component was not applicable, or impossible to execute, place an X in the N/A box.

lame	
Date	 
Resource Person	 

## LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE

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		FIR	Le de le	600 A
Th 1	e teacher assisted the student in selecting a project that: met unit objectives			
2	met the student's career objectives			
3	was within the student's capabilities			
4.	could interest, motivate, and challenge the student			
5.	was realistic in terms of cost and availability of materials, equipment, and facilities			
T <b>h</b> :	e teacher assisted the student in planning by: going over the plan and suggesting where it might be weak			
7.	making sure that the plan included a measurable objective			
8.	making sure that the plan included a careful analysis of the steps to be completed			
9.	making sure the plan included a list of needed supplies and equipment and the estimated costs			
10.	making sure the plan included devices for record keeping, evaluation, and progress checkpoints			
11.	suggesting resources and instructional materials			
The	teacher guided the student in executing the project			
	checking student progress periodically			
13.	suggesting changes when necessary			
14.	offering encouragement and positive reinforcement			



	MA	Le de la	6000 Excellent
The teacher guided the evaluation of the project by:  15. evaluating student progress during the project			
16. making sure the student was keeping records of his/her progress during the project, if necessary			
17. evaluating the project at its termination in terms of whether the objectives were met			
18. reviewing the student's evaluation of the project			
19. evaluating the project cooperatively with the student			

Level of Performance: All items must receive N/A, GOOD, or EXCELLENT responses. If any item receives a NONE, POOR, or FAIR response, the teacher and the resource person should meet to determine what additional activities the teacher needs to complete in order to reach competency in the weak area(s).



## ABOUT USING THE NATIONAL CENTER'S PBTE MODULES

## Organization

Each module is designed to help you gain competency in a particular skill area considered important to teaching success. A module is made up of a series of learning experiences, some providing background information, some providing practice experiences, and others combining these two functions. Completing these experiences should enable you to achieve the terminal objective in the final learning experience. The final experience in each module always requires you to demonstrate the skill in an actual teaching situation when you are an intern, a student teacher, an inservice teacher, or occupational trainer.

## **Procedures**

Modules are designed to allow you to individualize your teacher education program. You need to take only those modules covering skills that you do not already possess. Similarly, you need not complete any learning experience within a module if you already have the skill needed to complete it. Therefore, before taking any module, you should carefully review (1) the introduction, (2) the objectives listed on p. 4, (3) the overviews preceding each learning experience, and (4) the final experience. After comparing your present needs and competencies with the information you have read in these sections, you should be ready to make one of the following decisions:

- That you do not have the competencies indicated and should complete the entire module
- That you are competent in one or more of the enabling objectives leading to the final learning experience and, thus, can omit those learning experiences
- That you are already competent in this area and are ready to complete the final learning experience in order to "test out"
- That the module is inappropriate to your needs at this time

When you are ready to complete the final learning experience and have access to an actual teaching situation, make the necessary arrangements with your resource person. If you do not complete the final experience successfully, meet with your resource person and arrange to (1) repeat the experience or (2) complete (or review) previous sections of the module or other related activities suggested by your resource person before attempting to repeat the final experience.

Options for recycling are also available in each of the learning experiences preceding the final experience. Any time you do not meet the minimum level of performance required to meet an objective, you and your resource person may meet to select activities to help you reach competency. This could involve (1) completing parts of the module previously skipped, (2) repeating activities, (3) reading supplementary resources or completing additional activities suggested by the resource person, (4) designing your own learning experience, or (5) completing some other activity suggested by you or your resource person.

## **Terminology**

Actual Teaching Situation: A situation in which you are actually working with and responsible for teaching secondary or postsecondary vocational students or other occupational trainees. An intern, a student teacher, an inservice teacher, or other occupational trainer would be functioning in an actual teaching situation. If you do not have access to an actual teaching situation when you are taking the module, you can complete the module up to the final learning experience. You would then complete the final learning experience later (i.e., when you have access to an actual teaching situation).

Alternate Activity or Feedback: An item that may substitute for required items that, due to special circumstances, you are unable to complete.

Occupational Specialty: A specific area of preparation within a vocational service area (e.g., the service area Trade and Industrial Education includes occupational specialties such as automobile mechanics, welding, and electricity.

Optional Activity or Feedback: An item that is not required but that is designed to supplement and enrich the required items in a learning experience.

Resource Person: The person in charge of your educational program (e.g., the professor, instructor, administrator, instructional supervisor, cooperating/supervising/classroom teacher, or training supervisor who is guiding you in completing this module).

**Student:** The person who is receiving occupational instruction in a secondary, postsecondary, or other training program.

Vocational Service Area: A major vocational field: agricultural education, business and office education, marketing and distributive education, health occupations education, home economics education, industrial arts education, technical education, or trade and industrial education.

You or the Teacher/Instructor: The person who is completing the module.

## Levels of Performance for Final Assessment

N/A: The criterion was not met because it was not applicable to the situation.

None: No attempt was made to meet the criterion, although it was relevant.

**Poor:** The teacher is unable to perform this skill or has only **very limited ability** to perform it.

Fair: The teacher is unable to perform this skill in an acceptable manner but has **some ability** to perform it.

**Good:** The teacher is able to perform this skill in an **effective** manner.

Excellent: The teacher is able to perform this skill in a very effective manner.



## Titles of the National Center's Performance-Based Teacher Education Modules

## Category A: Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation Category G: School-Community Relations Prepare for a Community Survey Develop a School-Community Relations Plan for Your Vocational Program Conduct a Community Survey Give Presentations to Promote Your Vocational Program Report the Findings of a Community Survey Organize an Occupational Advisory Committee G-3 Develop Brochures to Promote Your Vocational Program Prepare Displays to Promote Your Vocational Program Maintain an Occupational Advisory Committee G-5 Prepare News Releases and Articles Concerning Your Vocational Program Develop Program Goals and Objectives Arrange for Television and Radio Presentations Concerning Your Vocational G-6 Conduct an Occupational Analysis Program Develop a Course of Study G-7 Conduct an Open House A-9 Develop Long-Range Program Plans Work with Members of the Community A-10 Conduct a Student Follow-Up Study G-9 Work with State and Local Educators Evaluate Your Vocational Program G-10 Obtain Feedback about Your Vocational Program Category B: Instructional Planning Category H: Vocational Student Organization Determine Needs and Interests of Students Develop a Personal Philosophy Concerning Vocational Student H-1 B-2 **Develop Student Performance Objectives** Organizations Establish a Vocational Student Organization Prepare Vocational Student Organization Members for Leadership Roles Develop 3 Unit of Instruction H-2 B-4 B-5 Develop a Lesson Plan Select Student Instructional Materials Prepare Teacher-Made Instructional Materials H-4 ist Vocational Student C:ganization Members in Developing and Financing a Yuarty Program of Activities Supervise Activities of the Vocational Student Organization H-5 Category C: listructional Execution Guide Participation in Vocatio al Student Organization Contests Direct Field Trips Category I: Professional Role and Development Conduct Group Discussions, Panel Discussions, and Symposiums Č-3 Employ Brainstorming, Buzz Group, and Question Box Techniques Keep Up to Date Professionally C-4 C-5 Direct Students in Instructing Other Students Serve Your Teaching Professi **Employ Simulation Techniques** Develop an Active Personal Philosophy of Liucation 1-3 C-6 C-7 Guide Student Study Serve the School and Community Direct Student Lal. Tratory Experience . 5 Obtain a Suitable Teaching Position Direct Students in Applying Problem-Solving Techniques Employ the Project Method 1-6 Provide Laboratory Experiences for Prospective Teachers Plan the Student Teaching Experience C-10 C-11 Introduce a Lesson 1-8 Supervise Student Teache Summarize a Lesson Category J: Coordination of Cooperative Education C-12 Employ Oral Questioning Techniques C-13 C-14 **Employ Reinforcement Techniques** Establish Guidelines for Your Cooperative Vocational Program Provide Instruction for Slower and More Capable Learners Manage the Attendance, Transfers, and Terminations of Co-Op Students J-2 Present an Illustrated Talk Enroll Students in Your Co-Op Program C-16 Demonstrate a Manipulative Skill Secure Training Stations for Your Co-Op Program Place Co-Op Students on the Job C-17 Demonstrate a Concept or Principle Individualize Instruction C-18 J-6 J-7 Develop the Training Ability of On-the-Job Instructors C-19 Employ the Team Teaching Approach Coordinate On-the-Job Instruction C-20 Use Subject Matter Experts to Present Information Prepare Bulletin Boards and Exhibits J-8 Evaluate Co-Op Students' On-the-Job Performance C-21 C-22 C-23 Prepare for Students' Related Instruction Present Information with Models, Real Objects, and Fiannel Boards J-10 Supervise an Employer-Employee Appreciation Event Present Information with Overhead and Opaque Materials Present Information with Filmstrips and Slides Category K: Implementing Competency-Based Education (CBE) C-24 C-25 Present Information with Films K-i Prepare Yourself for CBE C-26 Present Information with Audio Recordings Present Information with Televised and Videotaped Materials Organize the Content for a CBE Program C-27 K-3 Organize Your Class and Lab to Install CBE Provide Instructional Materials for CBT C-28 **Employ Programmed Instruction** K-4 Present Information with the Chalkboard and Flip Chart Manage the Daily Routines of Your CEE Program Provide for Students' Learning Styles K-6 Guide Your Students Through the CBE Program Category D: Instructional Evaluation Category L: Serving Students with Special/Exceptional Needs Establish Stuc- nt Performance Criteria D-1 Prepare Yourself to Serve Exceptional Students D-2 Assess Student Performance: Knowledge Identify and Diagnose Exceptional Students Assess Student Performance: Attitudes Plan Instruction for Exceptional Students D-4 D-5 Assess Student Performance: Skills Provide Appropriate Instructional Materials for Exceptional Students **Determine Student Grades** Modify the Learning Environment for Exceptional Students Evaluato Your Instructional Effectiveness Promote Peer Acceptance of Exceptional Students Use Instructional Techniques to Meet the Needs of Exceptional Students Category E: instructional Management Improve Your Communication Skills Project Instructional Resource Needs Assess the Progress of Exceptional Students Counsel Exceptional Students with Personal-Social Problems Assist Exceptional Students in Developing Career Planning Skills E-2 Manage Your Budgeting and Reporting Responsibilities L-10 E-3 Arrange for Improvement of Your Vocational Facilities Maintain a Filing System Prepare Exceptional Students for Employability Promote Your Vocational Program with Exceptional Students F-5 Provide for Student Safety L-13 Provide for the First Aid Needs of Students Assist Students in Developing Self-Discipline E-6 E-7 Category M: Assisting Students in Improving Their Basic Skills E-8 Organize the Vocational Laboratory Assist Students in Achieving Basic Reading Skills E-9 Manage the Vocational Laboratory M-2 Assist Students in Developing Technical Reading Skills Combat Problems of Student Chemical Use Assist Students in Improving Their Writing Skills Assist Students in Improving Their Oral Communication Skills M-3 Category F: Guldance M-5 Assist Students in Improving Their Math Skills Gather Student Data Using Formal Data-Collection Techniques M-6 Assist Students in Improving Their Survival Skills Gather Student Data Through Personal Contacts Use Conferences to Help Meat Student Needs F-3 RELATED PUBLICATIONS Studen, Guide to Using Performance-Based Teacher Education Materials Resource Person Guide to Using Performance-Based Teacher Education Materials Provide Information on Educational and Career Opportunities Assist Students in Applying for Employment or Further Education Guide to the Implementation of Performance-Based Teacher Education Performance-Based Teacher Education: The State of the Art, General Education and

For information regarding availability and prices of these materials contact—AAVIM, American Association for Vocational Instruction Materials, 120 Driftmier Engineering Center, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, (404) 542-2586



Vocational Education